

THE CASTAWAYS OP THE FLAG

" Anyhow, all our guns arc ready,"
Jack
added.

During the few hours that Jack had
spent in the
hands of the savages he had observed
that their
pirogues were in number fifteen, each
able to carry
seven or eight men* Twelve of these
canoes could
now be counted, rounding the point of
the creek
With the help of the telescope they were
able to
calculate that the whole band of savages
had gone
aboard, and that there could not be a
single abor-
igine remaining at Rock Castle.

" Can they be clearing out at last ?"
Jack
exclaimed,

" It isn't very likely/⁵ Ernest answered.
" More,
likely that they mean to pay a visit
to Shark's
Island,"

J
** When does the ebb begin ? " Captain
Gould
enquired*

" At half-past one," Mr. Wolston told
him.

" Then it will soon make itself felt,
and as it*
will be in the favour of the canoes we
shall thea
know what to expect*"

Ernest went to inform ML Zermatt, his
brother^;
and the boatswain, and all came and
took up thefiK'
posts under the hangar of the battery.

It was a little after one o'clock, and,
with the ebb
only just beginning to run, the
pirogues moved
but slowly along the east coast. They
kept as far
away from the island as possible, in
order to